



REC'D TN
REGULATORY AUTH.

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Guy M. Hicks
General Counsel

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
December 21, 1998

Mr. David Waddell
Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Entry Into Long Distance
(InterLATA) Service in Tennessee Pursuant to Section 271 of
the Telecommunications Act of 1996*
Docket No. 97-00309

Dear Mr. Waddell:

As directed by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority"), all parties in the above-referenced proceeding were invited to a meeting on Monday, December 14, 1998, to discuss BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s ("BellSouth") compliance with Checklist Item 8 (White Page Directory Listings) and Checklist Item 10 (Access to Databases and Signaling). We are pleased to report that the parties have been able to resolve their disagreements concerning Checklist Item 10, although issues still remain with respect to Checklist Item 8. Consistent with the Authority's instructions, BellSouth and NEXTLINK Tennessee L.L.C. ("NEXTLINK") respectfully submit this status report on these two checklist items.

Checklist Item No. 8

During the hearings in this docket, NEXTLINK objected to BellSouth's compliance with Checklist Item No. 8. As a result, both BellSouth and NEXTLINK had extensive discussions concerning White Page directory listings prior to the December 14 meeting. On December 1, 1998, the parties conducted a three-hour conference call which involved subject matter experts for both BellSouth and NEXTLINK. Another conference call lasting more than 2 hours was held on December 10. At the December 14 meeting, which was attended by representatives of both NEXTLINK and BellSouth (as well as attorneys for e.s.pire

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and AT&T), the parties were able to reach agreement on a number of the White Page directory listing issues originally raised by NEXTLINK. However, several issues remain unresolved, specifically NEXTLINK's concerns about training, billing, ordering processes, and the availability of review pages. While BellSouth does not agree that resolution of these issues is necessary to establish BellSouth's compliance with Checklist Item No. 8, BellSouth has agreed to work with NEXTLINK in attempt to address its concerns. In the meantime, however, NEXTLINK is not willing at this time to withdraw its objection to BellSouth's compliance with Checklist Item No. 8.

Checklist Item No. 10

The only parties to raise any objections to BellSouth's compliance with Checklist Item No. 10 were NEXTLINK and MCI WorldCom. By letter dated December 10, 1998, MCI WorldCom advised that it was withdrawing its objections.

The concerns identified by NEXTLINK with respect to databases and signaling related to: (1) BellSouth accessing the CNAM database in which NEXTLINK customer information is stored; and (2) the establishment of a backup signaling system for NEXTLINK.

BellSouth has entered into an agreement with Illuminet, the provider that operates the CNAM database for NEXTLINK and has made the necessary arrangements in order to query Illuminet's CNAM database. These arrangements were made in early December, and BellSouth conducted testing in all nine states on December 7 and December 8, 1998 to verify that the system was working.

BellSouth also has agreed to joint testing arrangements with NEXTLINK to review and implement NEXTLINK's proposed backup signaling system under specified circumstances and in accordance with an agreed upon schedule. This agreement has been incorporated into NEXTLINK's Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth.

At the December 14, 1998 meeting, NEXTLINK advised that, as a result of resolution of the CNAM database issue and the parties' commitment to good-faith testing of a back-up signaling system, NEXTLINK was withdrawing its objections to BellSouth's compliance with Checklist Item No. 10, with the understanding that

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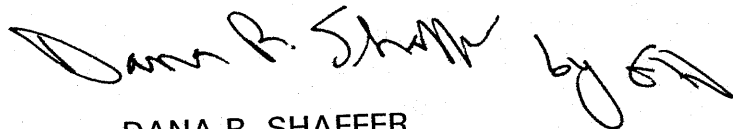
NEXTLINK was preserving its right to assert any new issues that may relate to BellSouth's providing access to databases and signaling.

We hope this information is responsive to the Authority's request, and please let us know if you need any additional information.

Yours very truly,



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cc: Counsel of Record

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 21, 1998, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via facsimile, hand delivery, overnight or U. S. Mail, postage pre-paid, addressed as follows:

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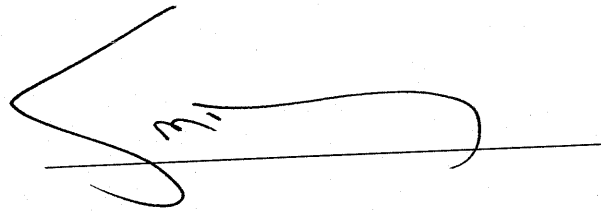
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. L. Quinn", written over a horizontal line.